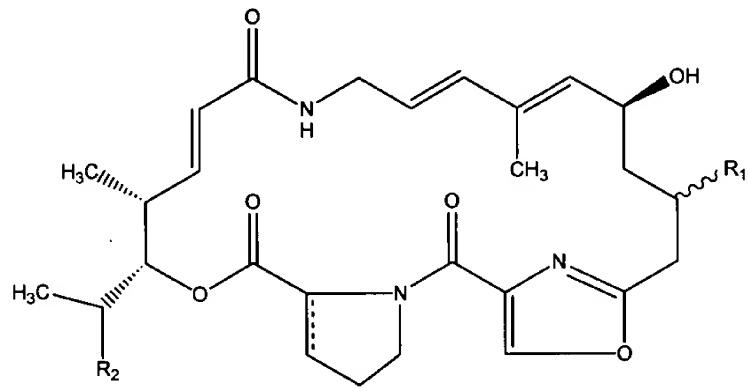
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 (previously canceled).

17. (previously amended) A group A streptogramin derivative chosen from group A streptogramin derivatives of formula (I), salts thereof, and mixtures of stereoisomers of any of the foregoing:



(I)

wherein:

- R_1 is chosen from -NR'R" groups, wherein
  - R' is chosen from a hydrogen atom and a methyl group, and
  - R" is chosen from
    - (i) a hydrogen atom,
    - (ii) alkyl groups,
    - (iii) cycloalkyl groups,
    - (iv) an allyl group,
    - (v) a propynyl group,
    - (vi) a benzyl group,

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(vii) -OR"' groups, wherein R"' is chosen from a hydrogen atom, alkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, an allyl group, a propynyl group, and a benzyl group, and

(viii) $-NR_3R_4$ groups, wherein

- R_3 and R_4 are each a methyl group, or
- R_3 and R_4, which are identical or different, form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a saturated or unsaturated 4- to 5-membered heterocyclyl group, wherein one of said members, in addition to said nitrogen atom, may be an atom chosen from an oxygen atom, a sulphur atom, and a nitrogen atom,

- R_2 is chosen from a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, and an ethyl group,

- the bond ---- is a single bond or a double bond,

- unless otherwise stated, said alkyl groups are chosen from straight and branched C_1-C_6 alkyl groups,

- unless otherwise stated, said cycloalkyl groups are chosen from C_3-C_4 cycloalkyl groups,

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- when said R" is chosen from a hydrogen atom, alkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, an allyl group, a propynyl group, and a benzyl group:

said group A streptogramin derivatives are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration,

said salts are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration, and

said mixtures are chosen such that said mixtures comprise at least one stereoisomer, wherein the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration, and at least one stereoisomer, wherein the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the S configuration, and wherein said R configuration is predominant, and

- when R" is chosen from said -OR"' groups and said -NR_3R_4 groups:

said group A streptogramin derivatives are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration or the S configuration,

said salts are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration or the S configuration, and

said mixtures are chosen such that said mixtures comprise at least one stereoisomer, wherein the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration, and at least one stereoisomer, wherein the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the S configuration.

18. (previously amended) A group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, wherein:

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- R_1 is chosen from -NR'R" groups, wherein

  - R' is chosen from a hydrogen atom and a methyl group, and
  - R" is chosen from

    (i) a hydrogen atom,

    (ii) alkyl groups,

    (iii) cycloalkyl groups,

    (iv) an allyl group,

    (v) a propynyl group,

    (vi) a benzyl group,

    (vii) -OR"' groups, wherein R"' is chosen from C_1-C_6 alkyl groups, an allyl group, and a propynyl group,

    (viii) $-NR_3R_4$ groups, wherein

      - R_3 and R_4 are each a methyl group, or
      - R_3 and R_4, which are identical or different, form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a saturated or unsaturated 4- to 5-membered heterocyclyl group, wherein one of said members, in addition to said nitrogen atom, may be an atom chosen from an oxygen atom, a sulphur atom, and a nitrogen atom,

- R_2 is chosen from a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, and an ethyl group,

- the bond ---- is a single bond or a double bond,

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- when said R" is chosen from a hydrogen atom, alkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, an allyl group, a propynyl group, and a benzyl group, said group A streptogramin derivatives and said salts thereof are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration and said mixtures comprise stereoisomers, wherein the carbon bearing R_1 is of the R configuration or the S configuration and wherein said R configuration is predominant, and

- when R" is chosen from said -OR"' groups and said -NR_3R_4 groups, said group A streptogramin derivatives and said salts thereof are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration or the S configuration and said mixtures comprise stereoisomers, wherein the carbon bearing R_1 is of the R configuration or the S configuration.

19. (previously amended) A group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, wherein:

- R_1 is chosen from -NR'R" groups, wherein
  - R' is chosen from a hydrogen atom and a methyl group, and
  - R" is chosen from
    - (i) a hydrogen atom,
    - (ii) C_1-C_4 alkyl groups,
    - (iii) cycloalkyl groups,
    - (iv) an allyl group,
    - (v) a propynyl group,
    - (vi) a benzyl group,

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(vii) -OR"' groups, wherein R"' is chosen from C_1-C_3 alkyl groups, an allyl group, and a propynyl group,

(viii) $-NR_3R_4$ groups, wherein

- R_3 and R_4, which are identical or different, form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a 5-membered saturated heterocyclyl group,

- R_2 is chosen from a methyl group and an ethyl group,

- the bond ---- is a single bond or a double bond,

- when said R" is chosen from a hydrogen atom, alkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, an allyl group, a propynyl group, and a benzyl group, said group A streptogramin derivatives and said salts thereof are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration and said mixtures comprise stereoisomers, wherein the carbon bearing R_1 is of the R configuration or the S configuration and wherein said R configuration is predominant, and

- when R" is chosen from said -OR"' groups and said $-NR_3R_4$ groups, said group A streptogramin derivatives and said salts thereof are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration or the S configuration and said mixtures comprise stereoisomers, wherein the carbon bearing R_1 is of the R configuration or the S configuration.

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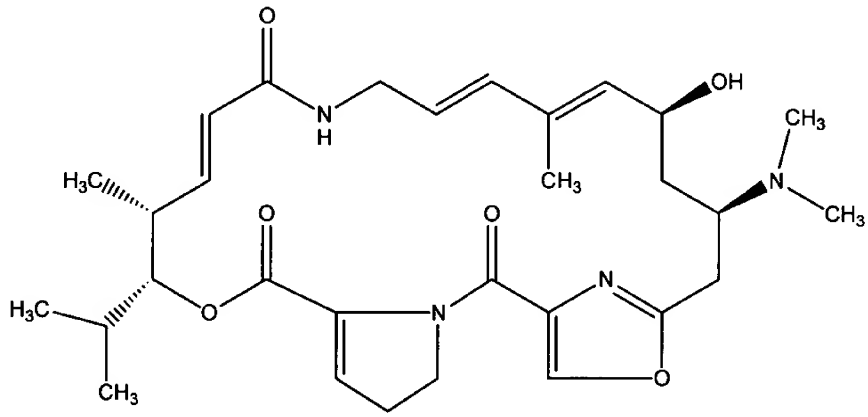
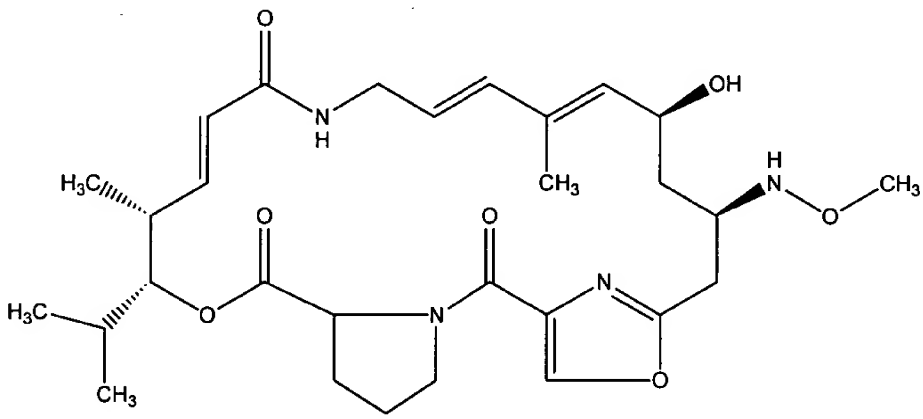
20. (previously amended) A group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, wherein said group A streptogramin is (16R)-16-dimethylamino-16-deoxopristinamycin II_A or a salt thereof:



21. (previously amended) A group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, wherein said group A streptogramin is (16R)-16-methoxyamino-16-deoxopristinamycin II_B or a salt thereof:



22. (previously amended) A group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, wherein said group A streptogramin is (16R)-16-ethoxyamino-16-deoxopristinamycin II_B or a salt thereof:

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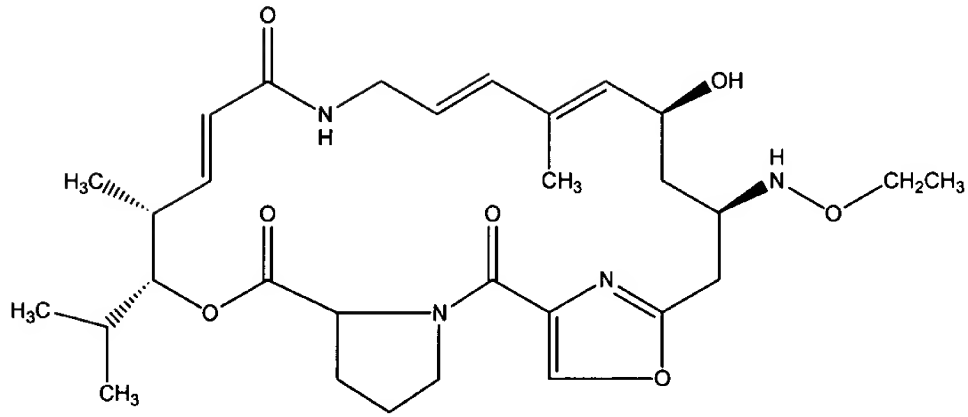
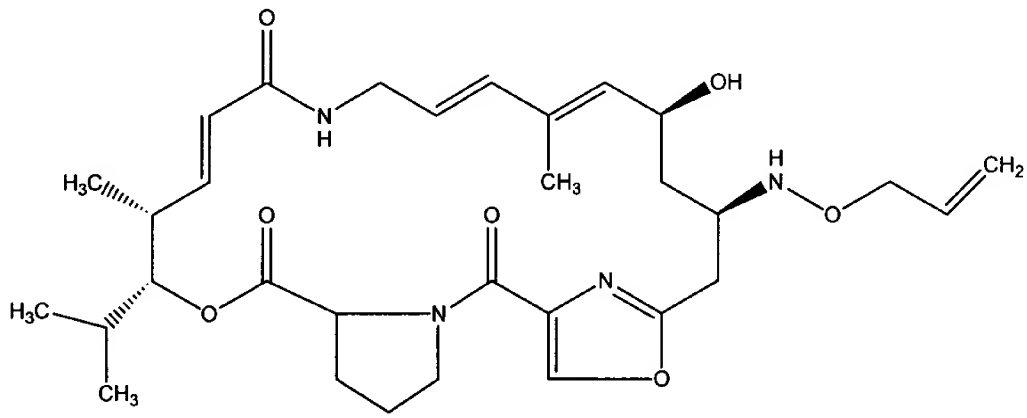


23. (previously amended) A group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, wherein said group A streptogramin is (16R)-16-allyloxyamino-16-deoxopristinamycin II_B or a salt thereof:



24. (previously amended) A group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, wherein said group A streptogramin is (16R)-16-methoxyamino-16-deoxopristinamycin II_A or a salt thereof:

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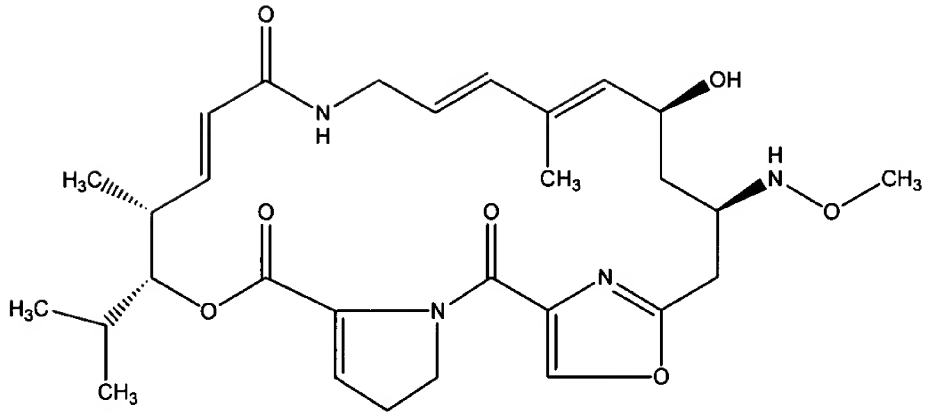


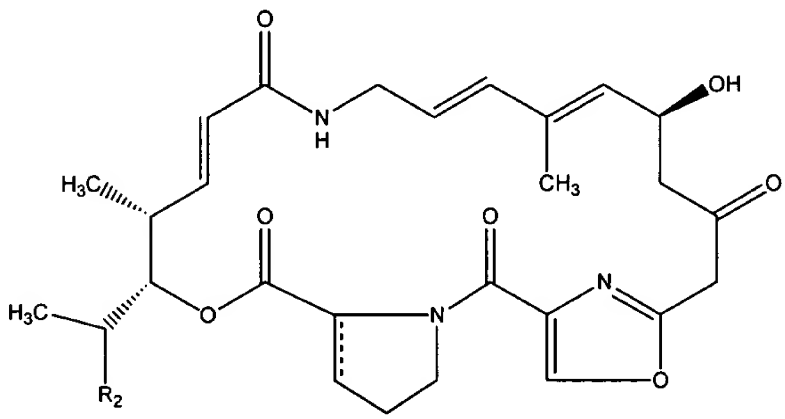
25. (previously amended) A process for preparing a group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, said process comprising:

(a) preparing a group A streptogramin derivative, wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, by reacting for a time and under conditions to form a group A streptogramin according to claim 17, in the presence of a reducing agent, an amine of formula (III):

H_2N-R" (III)

wherein R" is defined as in claim 17

with a natural pristinamycin of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_2 is defined as in claim 17,

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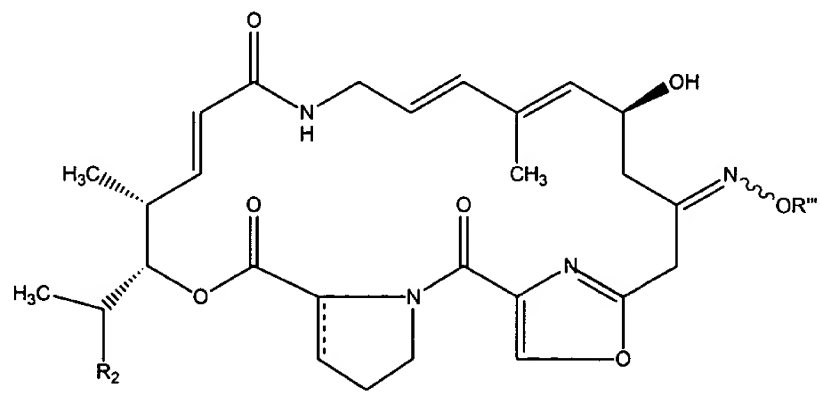
(b) optionally reacting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, with formaldehyde or a formaldehyde derivative to generate formaldehyde in situ for a time and under conditions to form a second intermediate compound, and then reacting said second intermediate compound with a reducing agent for a time and under conditions to form a group A streptogramin derivative, wherein R' is a methyl group, and

(c) optionally converting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), prepared by (a) or (b) above, to a salt and separating said salt, wherein the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration, or optionally separating said group A streptogramin derivative, wherein the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration.

26. (previously amended) A process for preparing a group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, said process comprising:

(a) preparing an intermediate compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R_2 and R''' are defined as in claim 17

by reacting an amine of formula (III):

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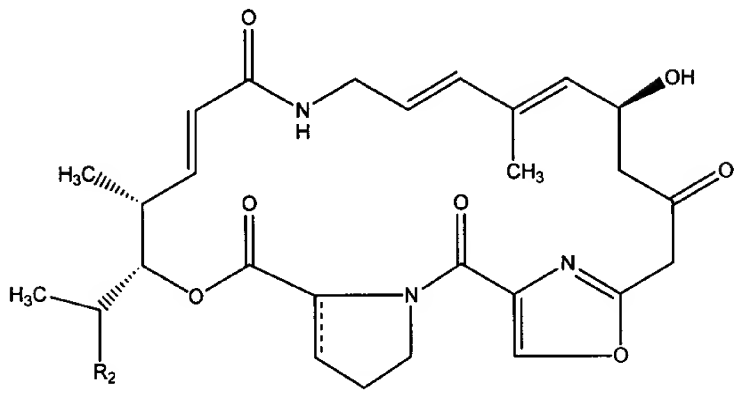
H_2N-R" (III)

wherein R" is chosen from –OR"' groups, and wherein said R"' groups are defined as in claim 17

with a natural pristinamycin of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_2 is defined as in claim 17,

for a time and under conditions to form said intermediate compound of formula (IV),

(b) isolating said intermediate compound of formula (IV),

(c) reacting said isolated intermediate compound of formula (IV) with a reducing agent for a time and under conditions to form a group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a hydrogen atom,

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(d) optionally reacting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, with formaldehyde or a formaldehyde derivative to generate formaldehyde in situ for a time and under conditions to form a second intermediate compound, and then reacting said second intermediate compound with a reducing agent for a time and under conditions to form a group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a methyl group, and

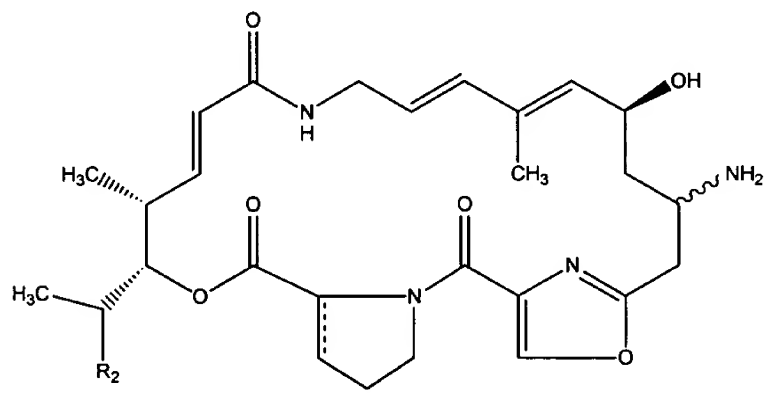
(e) optionally converting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), prepared by (c) or (d) above, to a salt and/or separating its R-epimer.

27. (previously added) A process for preparing a group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, said process comprising:

(a) preparing a group A streptogramin derivative, wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, by reacting, in the presence of a reducing agent:

(1) a ketone, chosen according to a desired R" group, wherein said R" is as defined in claim 17, with

(2) an amine-containing derivative of formula (V):



(V)

wherein R_2 is as defined in claim 17,

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(b) optionally reacting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, with formaldehyde or a formaldehyde derivative capable of generating formaldehyde in situ to form a second intermediate compound, and then reacting said second intermediate compound with a reducing agent to form a group A streptogramin derivative, wherein R' is a methyl group, and

(c) optionally converting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), prepared by (a) or (b) above, to a salt and/or separating its R-epimer.

28. (previously amended) A composition comprising at least one group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I) or salt thereof according to claim 17 and at least one group B streptogramin derivative chosen from natural group B streptogramin components and semisynthetic group B streptogramin components.

29. (canceled).

30. (previously added) A composition according to claim 28, wherein said at least one group B streptogramin derivative is chosen from pristinamycin I_A, pristinamycin I_B, pristinamycin I_C, pristinamycin I_D, pristinamycin I_E, pristinamycin I_F, pristinamycin I_G, virginiamycin S_1, virginiamycin S_3, virginiamycin S_4, vernamycin B, vernamycin C, and etamycin.

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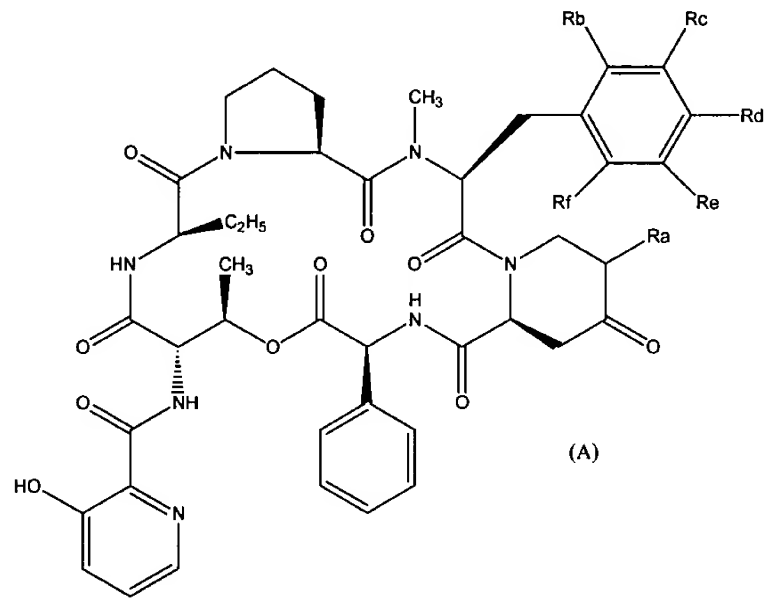
31. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 28, wherein said at least one group B streptogramin derivative is chosen from semisynthetic group B streptogramin derivatives of formula (A):



(A)

wherein:

(1) - Rb, Rc, Re, and Rf are each a hydrogen atom;

- Rd is chosen from a hydrogen atom and a dimethylamino group; and

- Ra is chosen from:

(A) $-CH_2R'a$ groups, wherein R'a is chosen from:

(i) a 3-pyrrolidinylthio group,

(ii) a 3-piperidylthio group,

(iii) a 4-piperidylthio group,

- wherein said groups (i)-(iii) may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one group chosen from alkyl groups, and

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(iv) alkylthio groups which are substituted with 1 or 2 groups chosen from:

(a) a hydroxysulfonyl group,

(b) alkylamino groups,

(c) dialkylamino groups, which may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one group chosen from a mercapto group or dialkylamino groups,

(d) a piperazine ring, a morpholino group, a thiomorpholino group, a piperidino group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a 2-piperidyl group, a 3-piperidyl group, and a 4-piperidyl group, a 2-pyrrolidinyl group, and a 3-pyrrolidinyl group, each of which may be unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl, and

(B) =CHR'a groups, wherein R'a is chosen from:

(i) a 3-pyrrolidinylamino group,

(ii) a 3-piperidylamino group and a 4-piperidylamino group,

(iii) a 3-pyrrolidinyloxy group,

(iv) a 3-piperidyloxy group and a 4-piperidyloxy group,

(v) a 3-pyrrolidinylthio group,

(vi) a 3-piperidylthio group and a 4-piperidylthio group,

- wherein said groups (i)-(vi) may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one group chosen from alkyl groups,

(vii) alkylamino groups,

(viii) alkyloxy groups, and

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(ix) alkylthio groups which are substituted with 1 or 2 groups chosen from:

(a) a hydroxysulfonyl group,

(b) alkylamino groups,

(c) dialkylamino groups unsubstituted or substituted with at least one group chosen from dialkylamino groups,

(d) trialkylammonio groups,

(e) a 4-imidazolyl group, and a 5-imidazolyl group, each of which may be unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl,

(f) a piperazine ring, a morpholino group, a thiomorpholino group, a piperidino group, a 1-pyrrolidinyl group, a 2-piperidyl group, a 3-piperidyl group, a 4-piperidyl group, a 2-pyrrolidinyl group, and a 3-pyrrolidinyl group, each of which may be unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl,

(C) a 3-quinuclidinylthiomethyl group, and

(D) a 4-quinuclidinylthiomethyl group; or

(2) - Ra is a hydrogen atom, and

(a) - Rb, Re, and Rf are each a hydrogen atom, and

- Rd is chosen from a $-NHCH_3$ group and a $-N(CH_3)_2$ group, and Rc is chosen from a chlorine atom and a bromine atom, or when Rd is a $-N(CH_3)_2$ group, Rc is chosen from ~~(C3-C5)~~ $(C_3\text{-}C_5)$ alkenyl groups, or

(b) - Rb, Rd, Re, and Rf are each a hydrogen atom, and

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- Rc is chosen from halogen atoms, aminomonoalkyl groups, aminodialkyl groups, alkyloxy groups, a trifluoromethyloxy group, thioalkyl groups, (C_1-C_3) alkyl groups, and trihalomethyl groups, or

(c) - Rb, Rc, Re, and Rf are each a hydrogen atom, and

- Rd is chosen from halogen atoms, an ethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a methylethylamino group, alkyloxy groups, a trifluoromethyloxy group, thioalkyl groups, (C_1-C_6) alkyl groups, aryl groups, and trihalomethyl groups, or

(d) - Rb, Re, and Rf are each a hydrogen atom,

- Rc is chosen from halogen atoms, aminomonoalkyl groups, aminodialkyl groups, alkyloxy groups, a trifluoromethyloxy group, thioalkyl groups, and (C_1-C_3) alkyl groups, and
- Rd is chosen from halogen atoms, an amino group, aminomonoalkyl groups, aminodialkyl groups, alkyloxy groups, a trifluoromethyloxy group, thioalkyl groups, (C_1-C_6) alkyl groups, and trihalomethyl groups, or

(e) - Rc, Re, and Rf are each a hydrogen atom, and

- Rb and Rd are each a methyl group.

32. (canceled).

33. (previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I) or salt thereof according to claim 17 and at least one group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said composition optionally

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comprises at least one pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, at least one pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable diluent and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

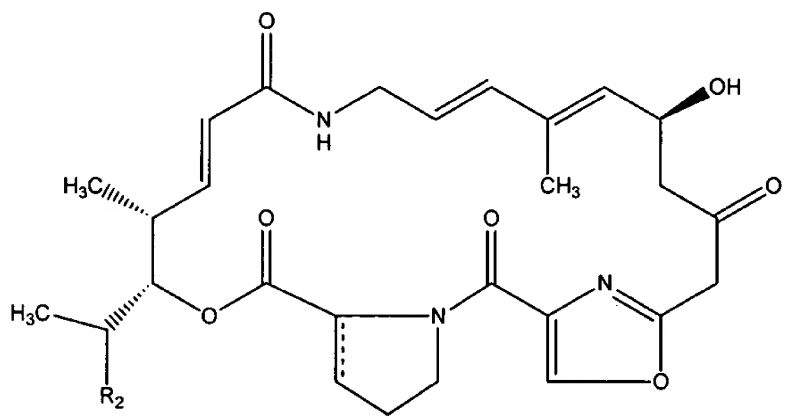
34. (previously added) A process for preparing a group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, said process comprising:

(a) preparing a group A streptogramin derivative, wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, by reacting for a time and under conditions to form a group A streptogramin according to claim 17, in the presence of a reducing agent, an amine of formula (III):

H_2N-R" (III)

wherein R" is defined as in claim 17

with a natural pristinamycin of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_2 is defined as in claim 17,

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(b) optionally reacting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, with formaldehyde or a formaldehyde derivative to generate formaldehyde in situ for a time and under conditions to form a second intermediate compound, and then reacting said second intermediate compound with a reducing agent for a time and under conditions to form a group A streptogramin derivative, wherein R' is a methyl group,

(c) optionally converting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), prepared by (a) or (b) above, to a salt and separating said salt, wherein the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration, or optionally separating said group A streptogramin derivative, wherein the carbon bearing said R_1 is of the R configuration, and

(d) isolating said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I) or salt thereof, prepared by (a), (b), or (c) above.

35. (previously added) A process for preparing a group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, said process comprising:

(a) preparing an intermediate compound of formula (IV):

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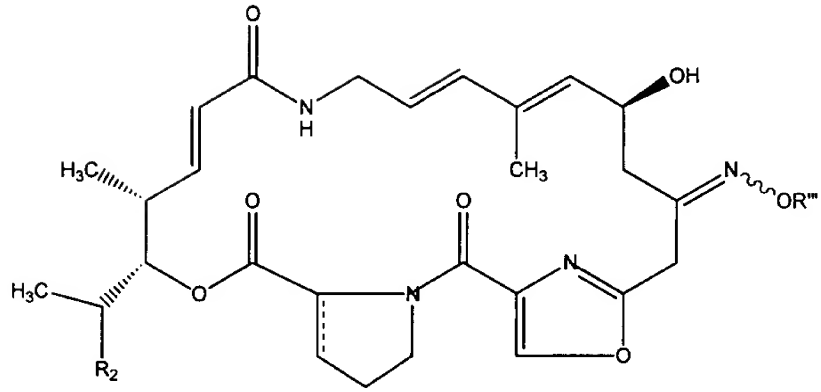


(IV)

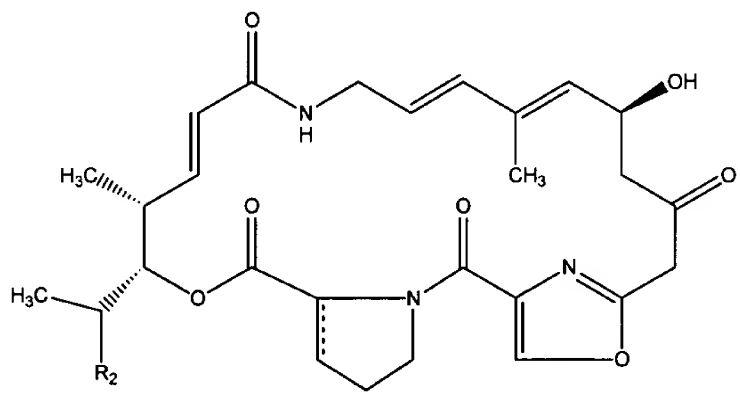
wherein R_2 and R''' are defined as in claim 17

by reacting an amine of formula (III):

H_2N-R'' (III)

wherein R'' is chosen from –OR''' groups, and wherein said R''' groups are defined as in claim 17

with a natural pristinamycin of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_2 is defined as in claim 17,

for a time and under conditions to form said intermediate compound of formula (IV),

(b) isolating said intermediate compound of formula (IV),

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(c) reacting said isolated intermediate compound of formula (IV) with a reducing agent for a time and under conditions to form a group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a hydrogen atom,

(d) optionally reacting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, with formaldehyde or a formaldehyde derivative capable of generating formaldehyde in situ for a time and under conditions to form a second intermediate compound, and then reacting said second intermediate compound with a reducing agent for a time and under conditions to form a group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a methyl group,

(e) optionally converting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), prepared by (c) or (d) above, to a salt and/or separating its R-epimer, and

(f) isolating said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I) or salt thereof, prepared by (c), (d), or (e) above.

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